

# Kharia language

The **Kharia language** (IPA: [kʰaɾija] or IPA: [kʰeɾija]<sup>[3]</sup>) is a Munda language that is primarily spoken by the Kharia people of eastern India.

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## History

According to linguist Paul Sidwell, Austroasiatic languages arrived on the coast of Odisha from Southeast Asia about 4000-3500 years ago.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Classification

Kharia belongs to the Kharia–Juang branch of the Munda language family. Its closest extant relative is the Juang language, but the relationship between Kharia and Juang is remote.

The most widely cited classification places Kharia and Juang together as a subgroup of the South Munda branch of the Munda family. However, some earlier classification schemes placed Kharia and Juang together, as an independent branch deriving from the root of the Munda languages, which they named Central Munda.

Kharia is in contact with Sadri (the local lingua franca), Mundari, Kurukh, Hindi, and Odia (in Odisha).<sup>[3]</sup>

## Distribution

Kharia speakers are located in the following districts of India.<sup>[3]</sup>

- Jharkhand
  - Simdega district
  - Gumla district
- Chhattisgarh

Kharia	
Region	India (Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha).
Ethnicity	Kharia
Native speakers	297,614, 69% of ethnic population (2011 census) <sup>[1]</sup>
Language family	Austroasiatic <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Munda<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Kharia–Juang<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Kharia</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>
Writing system	Devanagari, Oriya script, Latin script
Official status	
Official language in	<span><span></span></span> India (Jharkhand)
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	kh <span> </span> hr
Glottolog	kh <span>ar</span> 1287 ( <span>http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/khar1287</span> ) <sup>[2]</sup>

- Surguja district
- Raigarh district
- Odisha
  - Sundargarh district

## References

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1. "Statement 1: Abstract of speakers' strength of languages and mother tongues – 2011" ([http://www.censusindia.gov.in/2011Census/Language\\_MTs.html](http://www.censusindia.gov.in/2011Census/Language_MTs.html)). *www.censusindia.gov.in*. Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India. Retrieved 2018-07-07.
  2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Kharia" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/khar1287>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
  3. *The Munda languages*. Anderson, Gregory D. S. London: Routledge. 2008. p. 434. ISBN 9780415328906. OCLC 225385744 (<https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/225385744>).
  4. Sidwell, Paul. 2018. *Austroasiatic Studies: state of the art in 2018* ([https://www.academia.edu/36689736/Austroasiatic\\_Studies\\_state\\_of\\_the\\_art\\_in\\_2018](https://www.academia.edu/36689736/Austroasiatic_Studies_state_of_the_art_in_2018)). Presentation at the Graduate Institute of Linguistics, National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan, 22 May 2018.
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## External links

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- Online Kharia Dictionary (<http://www.ling.hawaii.edu/austroasiatic/AA/Munda/Dictionaries/Kharia.txt>)

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